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Calendar No. 197

101ST CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
101-101

AUTHORIZING FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MOUSE RESEARCH LABORATORY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

AUGUST 1 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 1989.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1390]

The Committee on Labor and Human Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1390) to authorize funds to be appropriated for the construction of a mouse research laboratory and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

S. 1390 provides for a single competitive grant for the construction of facilities for the development, production, and distribution of genetically selected mice for use in biomedical research. The grant will be for $25,000,000 to be awarded through a competitive process to be determined by the National Institutes of Health.

BACKGROUND

The fire which destroyed 500,000 genetically selected mice and portions of the facilities at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, on May 10, 1989, created an acute loss of supply of research mice among biomedical researchers in the United States and throughout the world. The Jackson Laboratory was established in 1929 as a not-for-profit facility mainly through financial support from the National Institutes of Health and the American Cancer Society. The Laboratory provides inbred, mutant mice to over 11,000 biomedical investigators for research in a broad range of illnesses affecting human health and well-being. The loss of stock se-

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riously curtailed the supply of mice for research purposes and some laboratories had to curtail experiments until their supplies could be re-instituted.

The Jackson Laboratory developed over 1,700 strains of inbred and mutant mice; many of the mutant strains have been available only through this facility. These animals are critical to research in cancer, heart disease, diabetes, atherosclerosis, AIDS and other immunological disorders, kidney disease, arthritis, neurological diseases, hormonal disorders, blood diseases, metabolic disorders and birth defects. Innovative studies into the causes and cure of lupus erythematosus have been seriously hampered because these depend on the strain NZB mice, which are particularly difficult to raise. These mice are not readily available from sources other than Jackson Lab. The vast number of the special strains and mutants the Jackson Laboratory provides are supplied in very small numbers. Not only would there be logistical and financial problems with mutiple sources, but the required quality controls would be virtually impossible to maintain. Commercial suppliers provide only a few of the most commonly used strains of research mice since these are the most profitable.

Besides the loss of Jackson's supply stock, facilities that housed breeding pens were destroyed. In all, the Laboratory suffered losses of $40,000,000. Property insurance on the thirty year old building, business interruption insurance, and liability coverage for the company whose workers started the blaze will recover approximately $15,000,000. Private loans for a twenty-year note on $27,000,000 would require re-payments in the amount of $71.5 million. Since approximately 65 percent of the Laboratory's operating income derives from federally supported research grants, the costs of servicing this debt and the re-payment of principal would come mainly from the government. It would raise the cost to researchers per animal subject by $1.88, from $6.62 to $8.50. This increase would be passed along to granting agencies as a direct supply charge.

There is a considerable need to reestablish the capacity to supply investigators with the appropriate research mice at the level preceeding the fire, and to do so quickly. Breed stock for all the strains of mice formerly available from the Lab were saved from the fire.

COMMITTEE VIEWS

The Committee feels that the loss of facilities at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, on May 10, 1989, created a serious crisis among biomedical researchers in the United States and throughout the world. The loss of stock seriously curtailed the supply of mice for research purposes and some laboratories had to curtail experiments until their supplies could be re-instituted.

S. 1390 provides for a competitive grant for the construction of a facility for the development, production, and distribution of genetically controlled mice for use in biomedical research. The introduction of this bill was prompted by the fire which interrupted the supply of mice distributed by the Jackson Laboratory. Any nonprofit public or private organization that meets the application requirements may apply. The grant will be for up to $25,000,000 to be

awarded through a competitive process to be determined by the National Institutes of Health. The bill contains language that stresses the necessity of an emergency response to this problem since it adversely affects virtually all phases of biomedical research.

The Committee felt that the Federal government would pay the majority of the costs of replacing the Jackson Laboratory, either directly or indirectly. If the facility is paid for indirectly, it is likely that the replacement will be slow, inefficient, and noncompetitive. The Committee believes that by paying directly for a replacement facility, the Federal government can assure that the process is competitive and that it will occur quickly.

VOTES IN COMMITTEE

S. 1390 was introduced by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Hatch on July 25, 1989 and marked-up on July 26, 1989. On that day, an amendment in the nature of a substitute was adopted and reported by voice vote by the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

COST ESTIMATE

The purpose of S. 1390 is to authorize the appropriation of $25,000,000 for the purpose of constructing a mouse research laboratory to provide inbred and mutant mice for use in biomedical research in order to reduce the affects of the loss of supply of such mice through the fire at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

[By fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	1990
Estimated authorization levels:	
Mouse research laboratory construction grant	25
Total estimated authorization levels	25
Estimated outlays:	
Mouse research laboratory construction grant	25
Total estimated authorization levels	25

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

This bill is likely to have no impact on regulatory practices or policies of the Federal government or any of its agencies.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Construction of Mouse Research Facility.

(a) This section authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Director of the NIH, to provide a single competitive grant to a public or private non-profit entity to construct a facility for the development, production, and distribution of mice for biomedical research.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated, $25 million to carry out section (a).

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